

EIS000194

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OCT 04 1999

6 MR. WALKER: My name is Jamieson Walker. I'm  
7 reading this statement on behalf of Nye County Board of County  
8 Commissioners.

9 The disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel  
10 for high-level waste in Yucca Mountain is one of the most  
11 significant federal actions ever undertaken in terms of cost  
12 and magnitude, but more importantly in the long-term  
13 implications for the health and safety of the present and  
14 future generations of Nye County residents.

15 Nye County recognizes that the permanent  
16 isolation of the waste currently in storage at scores of sites  
17 across the United States is an essential element of our  
18 national energy policy.

19 Nye County also recognizes that the disposal of  
20 these wastes at Yucca Mountain will reduce the threat to the  
21 resources and the public dependent upon those resources at each  
22 of these sites.

23 However, the -- the United States must recognize  
24 that the reduction in risk at these sites will result in the  
25 focusing of those risks on a single jurisdiction, my

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1 jurisdiction as a Nye County Commissioner.

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2 [The disposal of these wastes with the total  
3 radioactivity on the order of 14 billion curies will most  
4 certainly render the environment of Nye County vulnerable to  
5 contamination well into the future and will pose a threat to  
6 the citizens in the shadow of the repository that will last for  
7 all practical purposes in perpetuity.]

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8 [Therefore, it is incumbent upon Nye County, the  
9 United States and the decision-makers to be fully aware of the  
10 direct, indirect, short-term and long-term impacts of the  
11 proposed action.

12 I'm sorry to say it that the Draft Environmental  
13 Impact Statement does not adequately define, evaluate and  
14 assess those impacts.]

15 The proposed repository at Yucca Mountain raises  
16 a number of concerns to the citizens of Nye County and the Nye  
17 County Board of County Commissioners.

18 First and foremost are the concerns related to  
19 health and safety impacts. These include a number of  
20 transportation issues.

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21 [The national transportation network shown in the  
22 Draft EIS points to the fact that the shipments of waste,  
23 whether by track, rail or intermodal, will funnel all of the  
24 waste shipments through Nye County.

25 The United States must take all necessary steps

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2 (cont'd.)

1 to ensure that, one, the wastes are safely transported; two,  
2 Nye County residents are not subjected to additional risks; and  
3 three, Nye County be given the capability to -- to respond to  
4 any accidents within its jurisdiction. ]

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5 [The impacts of Yucca Mountain on the County's  
6 precious water resources are also of paramount concern.

7 The proposed action will result in the release of  
8 radioactive contamination into the only source of water  
9 available to the community of Amargosa Valley.

10 The proposed action has the potential to render  
11 the water supplies of the City of Pahrump and all of  
12 southeastern Nye County vulnerable to contamination.

13 The Department of Energy's hypothetical maximally  
14 exposed individuals will in reality be Nye County citizens,  
15 real people with real families.

16 The United States must guarantee that the future  
17 generations of Nye County residents will have a reliable supply  
18 of safe water. ]

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19 [The Draft EIS does not identify the measures that  
20 will be taken to mitigate contamination of other adverse  
21 impacts that will occur.

22 Further, mitigating measures are not identified  
23 to provide Nye County the wherewithal to ensure the long-term  
24 institutional controls -- that long-term institutional controls  
25 are in place that will protect the County's future residents.

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1                   The adverse impacts on our water resources must  
2 be mitigated by guaranteeing Nye County a safe water supply and  
3 by giving the County the wherewithal to implement and manage  
4 comprehensive wellhead protection programs and continued  
5 oversight of the repository.

6                   Nye County must be guaranteed that comprehensive  
7 monitoring will occur as long as the wastes at Yucca Mountain  
8 pose a threat.

9                   Nye County must also be guaranteed that those  
10 charged with monitoring will have the institutional authority  
11 and the technical and financial resources needed to provide  
12 long-term protection of the health and welfare of the County  
13 and its residents. ]

14                   Thank you.

15                   MR. LAWSON:   Thank you, Mr. Walker.

16                   MS. BOOTH:    Thank you.

17                   MR. LAWSON:   Our next speaker is Mike Anderson,  
18 to be followed by Mr. Walker once again.

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